

A NEW SPECIES OF *VOLUTOCORBIS* FROM SOUTH AFRICA

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Some years ago Mrs. Helen Boswell, of Valhalla, Transvaal, South Africa, sent specimens of an apparently new species of *Volutocorbis* to the junior author, who prepared a preliminary description. Somewhat later Mrs. Boswell sent further specimens of the same species to the senior author. In view of this we have decided to prepare this paper jointly.

In addition to expressing our appreciation to Mrs. Boswell for her continuing cooperation, we also wish to thank Mr. Michael Meyer, of Durban North, Natal, and Mr. Kenneth J. Fuller, of Lambton, Germiston, Transvaal, both of whom have sent us material of the new species. A fine specimen, which has been made the holotype, was sent us recently by Mr. Richard N. Kilburn, of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, to whom we express our thanks.

After this paper was completed two further specimens were loaned to us by Mr. William E. Old, Jr. of the American Museum of Natural History. These specimens, found attached to *Xenophora pallidula* Reeve, were

received from Mr. C. P. Fernandes of Lourenço Marques, Mozambique. They represent an extension of range, and so have been included in this paper. Our grateful thanks to Mr. Old for allowing us to examine this material.

*Volutocorbis semirugata*Rehder and Weaver, *new species*

Figs. 1-8

*Diagnosis* — Shell of medium size, 33.0 to 55.3 mm (1¼ to 2¼ inches) in length, rather shiny, axial ribs absent on body whorl or if present found only below angulate shoulder as low broad, rather obscure folds, especially in early portion of whorl. Outer lip very much thickened and reflected, posteriorly ascendant on penultimate whorl, sometimes obscurely denticulate, especially in gerontic specimens. Resembles *V. gilchristi* (Sowerby, 1902) but is larger, with weaker sculpture on last whorl, and with sloping shoulder, not canaliculate subsuturally.

*Range* — From off central Natal, South Africa, between Durban and the mouth of the



FIGS. 1-8. *Volutocorbis semirugata* Rehder and Weaver, *new species*: FIGS. 1, 5, holotype, Natal Museum Moll. 9939, 45.1 mm. in length. FIGS. 2, 6, paratype #1, USNM



709349, 54.3 mm. in length. FIGS. 3, 7, paratype #3, Boswell Colln., 47.9 mm. in length. FIGS. 4, 8, paratype #7, Boswell Colln., 38 mm. in length.

Tugela River, to off Lourenço Marques, Mozambique, in 100 to 280 fathoms.

*Description* — Shell of medium size, 33.0 to 55.3 mm (1¼ to 2¼ inches) in length, elongately ovate. Ground color pale yellow to straw color or light grayish yellowish brown, sometimes bluish gray on the body whorl; fresh specimens with interrupted (occasionally continuous) axial streaks of reddish brown or with spiral bands of interrupted blotches of reddish brown. Protoconch mammillate, with 2¼ smooth, rounded, pale straw-color whorls, initial whorl slightly tilted. Early postnuclear whorls with low, rather distant axial ribs that show a small node below the suture, and a somewhat larger one on the shoulder, with an obscure one below, or rarely above. The subsutural series may increase in strength for one or more whorls and then decrease, or the series may rapidly become obscure, ridgelike, and in the last whorl disappear; the shoulder knobs are strongest on the antepenultimate and penultimate whorls but become weaker on the last whorl, being present either as one or two unequal low ridges or a series of low nodes. The lower half of the body whorl is strongly marked by spiral grooves, which towards the base form angulate ridges. Aperture long, narrow, slightly arcuate, the anterior canal rather narrow and at a slight angle to the axis of the aperture. Outer lip broad, posteriorly ascending halfway up on the penultimate whorl, generally thickened internally and externally, where it forms a stout varix; noticeably denticulate at inner edge. Parietal lip meeting in a broad angle with the columellar lip which is usually made slightly arcuate by reason of the columellar pad bearing the numerous plaits; plaits on columellar pad normally 9 to 11 of varying strength, separated from basal fold by a pronounced groove. A rather broad, white

callus, thick on the columellar area, extends from the inner lip over half of the ventral surface of the body whorl.

*Material* — Holotype: SE of the Bluff, Durban, in 120 fathoms; collected by G. Scott, August 1872. Natal Museum, Mollusca No. 9939.

Paratypes (see table of measurements below): Nos. 1, 6, 10, 13: 10-20 miles off mouth of Tugela River, in 120-150 fathoms; Nos. 3, 4, 7: 15-20 miles off Durban, in 280 fathoms; Nos. 2, 5, 8, 9: off southern Zululand, in deep water; Nos. 11, 12: 10 miles NE of Inhaca Island, Lourenço Marques, Mozambique, in 100 fathoms.

*Measurements* (mm)

	length	width	no. whorls
Holotype (Natal Museum Moll. 9939)	45.1	19.5	6¼
Paratypes			
#1 (USNM 709349)	54.3	23.6	6½
#2 (Fuller Colln.)	49.6	25.3	(apex worn)
#3 (Boswell Colln.)	47.9	21.6	6½
#4 (USNM 709350)	43.7	19.2	6¼
#5 (Visagie Colln.)	38.5	17.1	6⅛
#6 (Boswell Colln.)	36.8	17.3	6¼
#7 (Boswell Colln.)	38.0	17.4	6⅛
#8 (Meyer Colln.)	35.3	16.5	
#9 (Meyer Colln.)	33.0	15.5	
#10 (Boswell Colln.)	55.9	22.3	7
#11 (AMNH 177285)	41.6	19.8	6¼
#12 (Fernandes Colln.)	41.1	18.1	
#13 (Boswell Colln.)	on <i>Xenophora pallidula</i> Reeve		

*Remarks* — *Volutocorbis semirugata* is distinguished from all previously described species by the axial sculpture of the early postnuclear whorls disappearing on the last half of the body whorl leaving it smooth except on the angulate shoulder, and on the base where it is marked by spiral sculpture

One specimen, paratype No. 10, is a rather thin shell, very pale yellow without spots, and is a typically elongate with the outer lip only moderately thickened.